

**AISWCD Board meeting
March Quarterly Board
March 12, 2013
Northfield Inn & Suites**

Present

Lonnie Wilson, President
Tom Beyers, Vice President
Van Bitner, Secretary
Kenny Vosholler, Treasurer
Jerry Snodgrass, Area I VP
David McCormick, Area II VP
Steve Stierwalt, Area III VP
Carlyn Light, Area IV AP
Barb Klinger, Council 1
Terry Bogner, Council 2
Lee Bunting, Council 3
Terry Davis, Council 4 (Left Early)
Dan Duval, Council 5
Randy Molitoris, Council 6
Darrell Roegge, Council 8 (Left Early)
Daniel Doedtman, Council 10
Steve Fulling, Council 11
Don Beisiegel, Council 12
Roger Johnson, Council 13
Dale Shumaker, Council 15
Gerard Fabrizio, Council 16
Marie Bunting, Auxiliary President
Betty Buckert, ISWCDEA AC Co-Chair
Kara Downin, ISWCDEA RC Co-Chair (Left Early)
Rich Nichols, AISWCD
Sherry Finn, AISWCD
Kelly Thompson, AISWCD
Gina Bean, AISWCD

Absent

Joe Rothermel, Council 7
Mark Roth, Council 9
Tom Anderson, Council 14
Mike Hoffman, Lobbyist

Call to Order

Lonnie Wilson, AISWCD President called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Secretary Van Bitner.

Approve Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. Lonnie Wilson would like to NACD North Central Report, and NACD Delegate/Alternate Report from Partner Reports on the agenda, and to discuss the letter sent out to districts by Carroll County listed under New Business. **Motion to approve agenda with above additions made by Dan Duval, seconded by Don Beisiegel. MCVV.**

Minutes

Motion to approve the December 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting minutes with the following corrections was made by Gerard Fabrizius, seconded by Lee Bunting. MCVV. Corrections: On page 11, under planning, for Annual Meeting. The date should be listed as July 22-23, not June.

Partner Reports

IDOA (Steve Chard) – Second and third quarter operations and cost-share funds have been released and should have been deposited in all the SWCD's bank accounts. Please see written report from IDOA attached to these minutes for more information.

NRCS (Eric Gerth) – See written report attached to minutes.

FSA – A written report was included in the packet, but Rick Braden and Jamie Diebal gave an oral report also. Rick discussed the fact they are working under a continuing resolution. He touched on staffing in Illinois, and the hard hiring freeze.

IEPA - No Report

DNR – No Report.

ISWCDEA – Betty Buckert, and Kara Downin, ISWCDEA Co-Chairs, gave the report. Written report is in March QB packet.

NCDEA – Written report attached.

NACD & NACD North Central –Lonnie Wilson gave a brief report. Included in the minutes is a written NACD report, along with Communications Committee highlights, North Central NACD Report, and a letter from Gene Schmidt, regarding District Official Training Program Recognition.

Committee Reports:

Executive – Lonnie Wilson reported the Executive Committee talked about items and programs that would be covered later in the different committee reports. Tasks were assigned to different committees.

Forestry – David McCormick gave the report. The committee has picked Rollie Spaniol for the Outstanding Forestry Award. A couple of the committee members have applied for grants through the Illinois Development Forestry Council, one has been accepted. A brochure will be put together and be ready for Summer Conference. Inserts from other partners and forest groups will be included. Two thousand will be printed, and it is called "Before you Cut." Timber Tax funds the Governor has been sweeping was discussed in regard to a resolution from 2012 Annual Meeting. **A motion was made by Dave McCormick that a letter is sent to the Governor, asking that Timber Tax Funds be restored, Lee Bunting seconded the motion.**

MCVV.

AISWCD Auxiliary – Marie Bunting gave the report. Marie thanked everyone for their support in buying the NACD Quilt tickets that was raffled off at the NACD Annual Meeting. The winner was from Montana. Marie went over Auxiliary plans for Summer Conference. They will also provide an auction item.

SWCD Insurance – Melissa Cauble, Insurance Administrator, gave the insurance report for February, which was provided in the handouts (attached to minutes). Melissa has registered for the HPR seminar, which is put on by Central Management Services which is on April 23, at the Northfield Inn in Springfield. Open enrollment begins May 1 – June 15, 2013. Annual Payroll audit will be conducted at the end of the fiscal year.

Mississippi and IL River Coordinating Councils - Lee Bunting gave the report. The council met the 27th of February. It was a combined meeting with the Mississippi, Illinois, and Wabash councils in Springfield at DNR. Sand mining was discussed.

Focus Committee Reports

Communications – Steve Stierwalt gave the report. Steve touched on the importance of communicating with legislators and reported Gina Bean had been working on a map that will hopefully be interactive so you can point on your area of the state, and your legislators will show up. He thinks that will be a valuable resource. Social media and ways to use that were discussed in the committee. Kelly has asked Rich to send her a list of the bills that legislature is reviewing, and she puts some of those on the Associations Face book page. Kelly reported they are generating a lot more interest than the other things she posts. Steve thanked Sherry for getting the dot points out in a timely manner right after Quarterly Board. Steve reported the committee talked about getting information out to directors in a timelier manner. Everyone has the opportunity to get on il.all@aiswcd.org but there are a lot of people who are not taking the opportunity to get on this list. The committee recommended creating a list serve for directors to provide information that is targeted to them to include the dot points, action alerts for legislators, Rich's reports. The AISWCD would ask district staff to collect email addresses of their directors if the directors are willing and send to AISWCD. **Steve Stierwalt made a motion to create a list serve for directors, seconded by Jerry Snodgrass. MCVV.** Steve reported that at the last Quarterly Board meeting it was discussed that if AISWCD had a proposal or resolution they would really like to get passed, it would be prudent to try to get the idea into every county's Farm Bureau's hands, and try to get them support from them. The leadership is working on viable funding alternatives at this point, and Steve wanted to keep people thinking about this idea. **Motion to approve the Communications Committee report was made by Dan Doedtman, seconded by Dale Shumaker. MCVV.**

Education – Jerry Snodgrass gave the report. Jerry reported they had promoted the Teacher of the Year Award thru DNR teacher data base. Jerry suggested that perhaps an excellent candidate for the award might be the Envirothon coaches. The Envirothon was discussed during the committee meeting. Jerry announced this would be the last year Canon would be sponsoring the Envirothon. This year they have cut back the funding for just the host state. Ideas have been kicked around about how to fund the Envirothon in the future at the national level. One of the ideas that came out of the North Central NACD Region was to charge \$1.00 per student that participates in an Envirothon. The Envirothon reaches approximately 500,000 students nationwide. Lonnie, as NACD delegate will take this on to the North Central to possibly draw up a resolution, or take to the committee who is working on it nationally. **Jerry made a motion that AISWCD support the idea of charging \$1.00 per student who participates in the Envirothon, starting at the local level, and would like this to be in the form of a letter to the North Central Region, and to NACD. Motion was seconded by Lee Bunting. MCVV.** The Education Committee also discussed educating district directors at the Annual Meeting. Lee Bunting and Jerry Snodgrass will conduct the training this year. The committee re-affirmed the idea from the Communications Committee to create the list serve for directors, and especially the chairman. **Motion to approve the Education Committee report was made by Barb Klinger, seconded by Darrell Roegge. MCVV.**

Financial – Kenny Vosholler gave the report. Kenny reported he had received a letter from informing him the AISWCD had been drawn by the IRS to have an audit on 2010 finances. The committee recommended giving Kelly Thompson a 4% raise, as was discussed at December Quarterly Board. **Kenny Vosholler made a motion to give Kelly a 4% raise, seconded by Terry Davis. MCVV. A motion to approve the Financial Committee report was made by Don Beisiegel, seconded by Randy Molitoris. MCVV.**

Legislative & Resolutions – Tom Beyers gave the report. Mike Hoffman attended the committee meeting and went over legislative items that is occurring, or has occurred. The gaming bill that was submitted by Senator Cullerton, was vetoed almost immediately by the Governor. Since that time, the Governor has proposed or written his own gaming bill. The Governor's interest is that most or maybe all that money be dedicated to education, so Soil & Water has been wiped out of that bill. Tom indicated Mike said it wasn't over yet, so "stay tuned." In the Governor's budget, we are down for a 600,000 increase, so that is positive. Lonnie passed around the budget as it stands now for directors to look at. The committee discussed the MOU task force. Legislative Day was discussed. Tom thanked the employees, AISWCD staff, and Lonnie Wilson for coordinating it. The committee thinks it would be prudent to be aware of changes in closing of FSA offices. Prevailing wage legislation was discussed. Tom reiterated that at the last Quarterly Board it was discussed whether Farm Bureau was on the side of SWCDs. In December, it was discussed if Farm Bureau was supportive of SWCD's stand on legislative issues. Tom Beyers visited with his local Farm Bureau Director about getting a resolution of support put together, and ask where they stand. Gary Kennedy, his local Director, told Tom there was written policy, and the Farm Bureau sits down annually and determines their priorities based on current issues. Tom secured a copy of the State of Illinois Farm Bureau's stand on support of soil and water and their issues. There are fourteen items of support on conservation. A copy of the Farm Bureau 2013 State Legislative Priorities is included in the minutes. Tom felt Farm Bureau is basically on the same page as AISWCD. Recently Rich sent out a testimony link for bills in committee. Tom urged everyone to take advantage of this, and get a testimony in on important pieces of legislation. The numbers count. Gerald Fabrizio made a comment on HB2243, which definitely would have made an impact on his area, regarding NRI's, and it was a very good success story on what we can do as a group. Tom reiterated Mike Hoffman was definitely doing his job in letting the AISWCD know about bills that might affect districts. **Resolutions – Prevailing Wage** – still working on this exemption, more development this year than last year. **Centralia Diagnostic Lab** – Has been closed. Resolution is dead. **Feral Hog** – AISWCD has contacted IDNR, in which they are going to make a presentation at the Summer Conference. **Illinois Forestry Association attempt at sweeping of Forestry Tax** – Illinois Forestry Association will be at Summer Conference to make a presentation. **Invasive Species** – Encouraging update of list – Ongoing. Tom touched on resolutions made at the NACD Convention in San Antonio. Recommendation to the board from Legislative Committee – Wind Energy Facility Construction, SB1469, would like to support. It requires measures to be put in place not only to make sure they are properly constructed, and natural resources protected, but if the facility is abandoned, that funds are there to deconstruct and put land back the way it was. **Motion by Tom Beyers moved to take support action on SB1469, seconded by Steve Fulling.** A question was raised by Lee Bunting if this would include Wind Facilities that are already on the ground. **Lee Bunting made a motion to amend the motion to included support structures that already exist also. Terry Bogner seconded the motion. MCVV. Vote on the original motion. MCVV.** Tom reported on recommendations by the Legislative Committee on Legislator of the Year, and Friend of Conservation Award nominees. **Motion by Tom Beyers to award Senator Jason Barickman as Legislator of the Year, and award Friend of Conservation Award to Caterpillar. Roger Johnson seconded the motion. MCVV. Motion made by Gerald Fabrizio to approve the Legislative Committee Report, seconded by Don Beisiegel. MCVV.**

Planning – Van Bitner gave the report. Upcoming Summer Conference/Annual Meeting details were discussed in the committee. Things are coming along well; a lot of details have been filled in. Last year's auctioneer cannot participate, but Van thinks we can fill the slot without a problem. The committee is also going to take a look at the Farm Family application. Hopefully it can be streamlined for upcoming years. **Motion to accept the Planning Meeting Report was made by Steve Fulling, seconded by Darrell Roegge. MCVV.**

Urban Community & Conservation – Gerald Fabrizio gave the report. IDOA gave a report, and reported about Streambank project deadline of May 1. The IUM is proceeding well; a few standards are being updated. A newsletter is being put together, and they hope to have an IUM display at Summer Conference. Gerald brought a display of his property that he put together for his district's Annual Meeting. He is going to leave it in Springfield, and Kelly Thompson is going to use it in a few areas. NACD is putting together webinars that are going to happen monthly. Kelly and Candace Jacob, an employee from Kendall County, and an employee from North Cook, are going to be featured in the webinar. CPESC session will be held at Summer Conference, and 5 credit hours are available for attending. Gerald touched on a Legislative Luncheon and Tour that is going to be held in Peoria County sometime the middle of August. **Motion to accept the Urban Community and Conservation Committee was made by Randy Molitoris, seconded by Don Beisiegel. MCVV.**

Executive Directors Report – Attached to the packet for the boards review. **Motion to accept report was made by Jerry Snodgrass, seconded by Tom Beyers. MCVV.**

Area VP Reports:

Area 1 – Jerry Snodgrass – Jerry brought up the fax from Carroll County. They talked at the LUC meeting last Thursday. Jerry reported Carroll County was not mad at anyone, and was not out to hang anyone, they just wanted some answers. Jerry felt some of the problem was lack of communication, and that district directors were not getting information. Carroll County is continuing with the survey.

Area 2 – Carroll County was discussed at LUC meeting. The council voted to support. They felt some of the questions should be ask.

Area 3 – No Report

Area 4 – No Report

Old Business

SWCD Dues Update – Sherry Finn gave an update. For FY 2013 – there are nine districts out of 97 who have not paid their first quarter dues. They are: Adams, Carroll, Clinton, Gallatin, Greene, Jefferson, Pope-Hardin, Randolph, and Scott. Total for delinquent dues is \$3,251.17. Since 2nd & 3rd quarter allocation has been sent out, invoices for dues for 2nd and 3rd quarter will be sent out in the next week or ten days. Lonnie directed Sherry to send a notice out to all districts explaining deadline and variance in not paying dues. Lonnie also ask directors to talk to districts that are not paying dues and ask them why, and report to him at the next Quarterly Board Meeting.

FY2012 – 2013 EPA Grant and CREP Staffing Update – Sherry Finn reported there are six CREP Resource Specialist. Five were hired November 1. One was hired January 1. They are housed in the Illinois River Basin Area. They have taken training from DNR on two separate occasions. They are also trained in pesticides. They are helping with monitoring in districts. There will be a report sent out on duties of the CREP Resource Specialists as per a request coming out of the Executive Meeting on Monday. That report will be presented at the June Board Meeting.

FY 2011-2014 IUM Grant Update – Kelly Thompson reported there will be a Steering Committee meeting scheduled for May, and a Technical Review Committee meeting scheduled for April. Currently the Technical Review Committee is working on updating three wetland standards, porous and pervious pavement standards, the rain garden standards, soil bio engineering. A contract has just been entered into with Tetra Tech of Collinsville to develop five new post development standards that include wetland retention, and some other retention basins. They are working on developing a Field Manual and Inspection Guide, and that should be done in September. There is money in the grant to produce copies of this, so each district will receive copies of the guide. They are also working on an urban newsletter, but Kelly does not have a date when that will be complete. Hopefully advertising space can be sold in the newsletter. Kelly is suggesting the committee have a booth at Summer Conference. Kelly is also taking suggestions on how to re-organize the IUM Website. Bylaws will be addressed at the May Steering Committee meeting.

FY2011-2013 IGIG Grant Update – Rich Nichols reported IGIG is proceeding slowly. A construction was set for last fall. LICA contractors were set up to volunteer. The Union shut them down. They did not want any volunteers on State property, and wanted to shut the whole project down. Marc Miller sat down with them and had a discussion. It ended up the State Union is going to volunteer to do the work. They are waiting for more favorable weather, then the project should be done fairly quickly.

AISWCD Website Bids – Kelly Thompson reported she had met with Julie West on February 18th; they discussed options for updating website. Kelly had made a layout of things they wanted included on the website, and how they would like it to be more user friendly. Julie sent back a couple backgrounds, and she and Rich have settled on three of them. Julie is going to start developing a proposed site this week or next week, and Kelly and Rich should have something to look at and evaluate before the end of the month.

AISWCD Driveway Update – Rich Nichols reported the driveway is deteriorating in a couple of spots. The Concrete Association was contacted; they came out and looked at it. They suggested Rich get in touch with the original contractor.

AISWCD New Money/Revenue Stream Ideas Update – Lonnie reported the AISWCD has put forth eleven ideas to Frank Mautino. Representative Mautino felt he would be willing to carry all eleven ideas forward to the group that is he is working with. Frank Mautino is going to have some legislation coming out about some reforms. Lonnie told him AISWCD would take a look at the legislation and perhaps they could help him with some of that. AISWCD has had conversations on the Senate side with a few other legislators. Lonnie feels we have pretty good support down state for ag funding.

State Budget Update – Rich Nichols reported districts are at the present time in the FY14 budget for three million for operations, four and a half million for cost-share.

Resolutions Update/Variance – Covered above under legislative.

FY2013 AISWCD Budget Update – Kenny Vosholler reviewed the Budget with the board, which reflected changes that were made at the December Quarterly Board Meeting.

FY2013 AISWCD 65th Annual Meeting Update - Was already covered. See Planning Committee report above.

Strategic Planning Goals Update/Newly appointed Taskforce Committees (MOU & Outreach) – Lonnie reported the strategic planning goals update were covered in each committee report on how the committees are taking action with the priorities set forth, and ask for questions on how that is being handled. Steve Stierwalt asked for questions for the Outreach taskforce. There were no questions.

NACD North Central Region Meeting in Chicago – Lonnie & Tom attended in January. In the written report (attached) it covers action that was taken. Jerry's term limit is up, so he no longer will be serving on the Executive Board for NACD.

NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas – A new election of officers was held. See report attached to minutes. Lonnie was appointed to Co-Chair of the communications committee (see report attached to minutes). Lonnie Wilson, Tom Beyers, Kenny Vosholler, and Kelly Thompson attended representing AISWCD.

Friends of AISWCD (Affiliate Memberships) – Lonnie Wilson presented a brochure that was in the packet about affiliate memberships. Lonnie ask for questions or comments. AISWCD is hoping to roll out the brochures pretty quickly. AISWCD is looking into being able to accept credit cards for affiliate memberships, and also the auction at Summer Conference.

Certainty Update – Lonnie Wilson reported AISWCD had put together a group including IDOA, IEPA, NRCS, and are putting together a framework for tasks. They have been having monthly meetings.

BMP Issues Update – No update given.

New Business

OMA Information Update – Lonnie Wilson reported the training manuals have been completed. Gina Bean has been working on those. The first training will be available on March 22. The first training will be held in Princeton. The Regional Reps have asked Lonnie to do the first training, to work the bugs out.

Farm Progress Show – Rich Nichols reported the committee had met in December but the February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather; it is to be rescheduled. The show is progressing.

Legislator of the Year and Friend of Conservation Awards – Covered above under Legislative Committee.

Questions on Financial Reports (handouts) and partner Written Reports – **Motion to approve the financial reports was made by Don Beisiegel, seconded by Dan Duval. MCVV. Motion to approve partner written reports was made by Roger Johnson, seconded by Barb Klinger. MCVV.**

Carroll County SWCD Survey – The Carroll County SWCD letter was discussed. Lonnie Wilson said he felt that the content of the letter is based around in his opinion a lack of communication. He stressed that Council Delegates should communicate what is going on at AISWCD board meetings to their Land Use Councils. Lonnie Wilson told the board if they had any comments on the Carroll County letter they should direct comments to Barb Klinger, voting delegate for Council 1 or Jerry Snodgrass, Area 1 Vice President. Jerry Snodgrass suggested if directors had not had a board meeting yet, perhaps a copy of the letter should be sent out to them before the board meeting so they can study it, and come to the board meeting prepared to answer the questionnaire. Lonnie wanted to give an opportunity for anyone to ask questions or comment directly to Council 1. Lonnie reiterated that AISWCD was always welcome to constructive criticism.

Barb Klinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Don Beisiegel. MCVV. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Minutes taken & transcribed by:

Cindy Moon

Approved by:

Signature

Date